

**11.6 Examination of governmental subdivisions — consultative services — association of counties.**

1. a. (1) The financial condition and transactions of all cities and city offices, counties, county hospitals organized under chapters 347 and 347A, memorial hospitals organized under chapter 37, entities organized under chapter 28E having gross receipts in excess of one hundred thousand dollars in a fiscal year, merged areas, area education agencies, and all school offices in school districts, shall be examined at least once each year, except that cities having a population of seven hundred or more but less than two thousand shall be examined at least once every four years, and cities having a population of less than seven hundred may be examined as otherwise provided in this section. The examination shall cover the fiscal year next preceding the year in which the audit is conducted. The examination of school offices shall include an audit of all school funds including categorical funding provided by the state, the certified annual financial report, the certified enrollment as provided in section 257.6, supplementary weighting as provided in section 257.11, and the revenues and expenditures of any nonprofit school organization established pursuant to section 279.62. Differences in certified enrollment shall be reported to the department of management. The examination of school offices shall include at a minimum a determination that the laws of the state are being followed, that categorical funding is not used to supplant other funding except as otherwise provided, that supplementary weighting is pursuant to an eligible sharing condition, and that postsecondary courses provided in accordance with section 257.11 and chapter 261E supplement, rather than supplant, school district courses. The examination of a city that owns or operates a municipal utility providing local exchange services pursuant to chapter 476 shall include an audit of the city's compliance with section 388.10. The examination of a city that owns or operates a municipal utility providing telecommunications services pursuant to section 388.10 shall include an audit of the city's compliance with section 388.10.

(2) Subject to the exceptions and requirements of subsection 2 and subsection 4, paragraph "a", subparagraph (3), examinations shall be made as determined by the governmental subdivision either by the auditor of state or by certified public accountants, certified in the state of Iowa, and they shall be paid from the proper public funds of the governmental subdivision.

b. (1) In conjunction with the audit of the governmental subdivision required under this section, the person performing the audit shall also perform tests for compliance with the investment policy of a reasonable number of investment transactions in relation to the total investments and quantity of transactions in the period audited. The results of the compliance testing shall be reported in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The person performing the audit may also make recommendations for changes to investment policy or practices. The governmental subdivision is responsible for the remedy of reported noncompliance with its policy or practices.

(2) (a) As part of its audit, the governmental subdivision is responsible for obtaining and providing to the person performing the audit the audited financial statements and related report on internal control structure of outside persons, performing any of the following during the period under audit for the governmental subdivision:

- (i) Investing public funds.
- (ii) Advising on the investment of public funds.
- (iii) Directing the deposit or investment of public funds.
- (iv) Acting in a fiduciary capacity for the governmental subdivision.

(b) The audit under this section shall not be certified until all material information required by this subparagraph is reviewed by the person performing the audit.

(3) The review by the person performing the audit of the most recent annual report to shareholders of an open-end management investment company or an unincorporated investment company or investment trust registered with the federal securities and exchange commission under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, 15 U.S.C. § 80a, pursuant to 17 C.F.R. § 270.30d-1 or the review, by the person performing the audit, of the most recent annual report to shareholders, call reports, or the findings pursuant to a regular examination

under state or federal law, to the extent the findings are not confidential, of a bank, savings and loan association, or credit union shall satisfy the review requirements of this paragraph.

(4) All contracts or agreements with outside persons performing any of the functions listed in subparagraph (2) shall require the outside person to notify in writing the governmental subdivision within thirty days of receipt of all communication from the person performing the audit or any regulatory authority of the existence of a material weakness in internal control structure, or regulatory orders or sanctions against the outside person, with regard to the type of services being performed under the contracts or agreements. This provision shall not be limited or avoided by another contractual provision.

(5) As used in this subsection, “outside person” excludes a bank, savings and loan association, or credit union when acting as an approved depository pursuant to chapter 12C.

(6) A joint investment trust organized pursuant to chapter 28E shall file the audit reports required by this chapter with the administrator of the securities and regulated industries bureau of the insurance division of the department of commerce within ten days of receipt from the auditor. The auditor of a joint investment trust shall provide written notice to the administrator of the time of delivery of the reports to the joint investment trust.

(7) If during the course of an audit of a joint investment trust organized pursuant to chapter 28E, the auditor determines the existence of a material weakness in the internal control structure or a material violation of the internal control structure, the auditor shall report the determination to the joint investment trust which shall notify the administrator in writing within twenty-four hours, and provide a copy of the notification to the auditor. The auditor shall provide, within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the copy of the notice, written acknowledgment of the receipt to the administrator. If the joint investment trust does not make the notification within twenty-four hours, or the auditor does not receive a copy of the notification within twenty-four hours, the auditor shall immediately notify the administrator in writing of the material weakness in the internal control structure or the material violation of the internal control structure.

2. a. A city, community college, school district, area education agency, entity organized under chapter 28E, county, county hospital, or memorial hospital desiring to contract with or employ certified public accountants shall utilize procedures which include a request for proposals.

b. The governing body of a city, community college, school district, area education agency, entity organized under chapter 28E, county, county hospital, or memorial hospital utilizing the auditor of state instead of a certified public accountant to perform an audit shall notify the auditor of state by June 1 of the year to be audited. If the governing body fails to notify the auditor of state of the decision to use the auditor of state, the auditor of state may perform the audit required in subsection 1 only if provisions are not made by the governing body to contract for the audit.

3. A township or city for which examinations are not required under subsection 1 may contract with or employ the auditor of state or certified public accountants for an examination of its financial transactions and condition of its funds. A financial examination is mandatory on application by one hundred or more taxpayers, or if there are fewer than five hundred taxpayers in the township or city, then by fifteen percent of the taxpayers. Payment for the examination shall be made from the proper public funds of the township or city.

4. a. In addition to the powers and duties under other provisions of the Code, the auditor of state may at any time cause to be made a complete or partial reaudit of the financial condition and transactions of any city, county, county hospital, memorial hospital, entity organized under chapter 28E, merged area, area education agency, school corporation, township, or other governmental subdivision, or an office of any of these, if one of the following conditions exists:

(1) The auditor of state has probable cause to believe such action is necessary in the public interest because of a material deficiency in an audit of the governmental subdivision filed with the auditor of state or because of a substantial failure of the audit to comply with the standards and procedures established and published by the auditor of state.

(2) The auditor of state receives from an elected official or employee of the governmental

subdivision a written request for a complete or partial reaudit of the governmental subdivision.

(3) The auditor of state receives a petition signed by at least fifty eligible electors of the governmental subdivision requesting a complete or partial reaudit of the governmental subdivision. If the governmental subdivision has not contracted with or employed a certified public accountant to perform an audit of the fiscal year in which the petition is received by the auditor of state, the auditor of state may perform an audit required by subsection 1 or 3.

b. The state audit shall be paid from the proper public funds available in the office of the auditor of state. In the event the audited governmental subdivision recovers damages from a person performing a previous audit due to negligent performance of that audit or breach of the audit contract, the auditor of state shall be entitled to reimbursement on an equitable basis for funds expended from any recovery made by the governmental subdivision.

c. An examination under this subsection shall include a determination of whether investments by the governmental subdivision are authorized by state law.

5. The auditor of state may, within three years of filing, during normal business hours upon reasonable notice of at least twenty-four hours, review the audit work papers prepared in the performance of an audit or examination conducted pursuant to this section.

6. An audit required by this section shall be completed within nine months following the end of the fiscal year that is subject to the audit. At the request of the governmental subdivision, the auditor of state may extend the nine-month time limitation upon a finding that the extension is necessary and not contrary to the public interest and that the failure to meet the deadline was not intentional.

7. The auditor of state shall make guidelines available to the public setting forth accounting and auditing standards and procedures and audit and legal compliance programs to be applied in the examination of the governmental subdivisions of the state, which shall require a review of the internal control structure and specify testing of transactions for compliance. The guidelines shall include a requirement that the certified public accountant immediately notify the auditor of state regarding any suspected embezzlement or theft. The auditor shall also provide standard reporting formats for use in reporting the results of an examination of a governmental subdivision.

8. The auditor of state shall provide advice and counsel to public entities and certified public accountants concerning audit and examination matters. The auditor of state shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 17A to establish a fee schedule based upon the prevailing rate for the service rendered. The auditor of state shall obtain payment from a public entity or certified public accountant for advisory and consultation services rendered pursuant to this subsection. The auditor of state may waive any charge provided in this subsection and may determine to provide certain services without cost.

9. The Iowa state association of counties shall keep accounts as required by the auditor of state. These accounts shall be audited annually by either the auditor of state or a certified public accountant certified in the state of Iowa. The audit shall state all moneys expended for expenses incurred by and salaries paid to legislative representatives and lobbyists of the association.

10. The auditor of state shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 17A to establish and collect a filing fee for the filing of each report of examination conducted pursuant to subsections 1 through 3. The funds collected shall be maintained in a segregated account for use by the office of the auditor of state in performing audits conducted pursuant to subsection 4 and for work paper reviews conducted pursuant to subsection 5. Any funds collected by the auditor pursuant to subsection 4 shall be deposited in this account. Notwithstanding section 8.33, the funds in this account shall not revert at the end of any fiscal year.

[S13, §100-d, 1056-a11, -a13; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §113; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, §11.6; C73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §11.6, 332.3(27); S81, §11.6; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1000]

84 Acts, ch 1123, §1; 84 Acts, ch 1128, §1; 89 Acts, ch 264, §1; 90 Acts, ch 1013, §1; 91 Acts, ch 267, §222; 92 Acts, ch 1156, §2 – 4; 92 Acts, ch 1187, §1; 92 Acts, ch 1232, §301; 92 Acts, ch 1242, §16, 17; 96 Acts, ch 1215, §20; 2004 Acts, ch 1022, §1; 2004 Acts, ch 1048, §1; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §90; 2006 Acts, ch 1117, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §118 – 120; 2008 Acts, ch 1181, §42